

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/786,386
Reply to Office Action dated July 1, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 4, and 5 are amended.

The amendment to claim 1 is supported, for example, by Figure 1.

Claim 5 was rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 4, and 5 are amended to provide consistency in the description of the "auxiliary electrode". Favorable reconsideration of claim 5 is requested.

Claims 1-3 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kambara (US 6,153,256) in view of Oh (US 6,359,546). Kambara teaches a chip resister wherein each plated metal layer (13d) extends only up to a tapering edge of the overcoat layer (14b). In contrast, claim 1 recites "the nickel-plated layer and the soldering layer extend onto the flat upper surface of the cover coat beyond the tapering edge". This feature is advantageous in reliably preventing air-borne sulfur (hydrogen sulfide) from reaching the upper electrode, thus preventing corrosion. Oh does not remedy the deficiencies of Kambara as noted above. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of Oh as applied to claims 1-3. Favorable reconsideration of claims 1-3 is requested.

Claim 5 was rejected as being unpatentable over Kambara in view of Oh, further in view of Hanamura (US 5,815,065). Hanamura does not remedy the deficiencies of Kambara and Oh as noted above. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of Hanamura as applied to claim 5. Favorable reconsideration of claim 5 is requested.

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as noted above. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of Hanamura as applied to claim 5. Favorable reconsideration of claim 5 is requested.

Claim 4 was rejected as being unpatentable over Kambara in view of Oh, further in view of Yoneda (US 6,492,896). Yoneda does not remedy the deficiencies of Kambara and Oh as noted above. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of Yoneda as applied to claim 4. Favorable reconsideration of claim 4 is requested.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)371-5237.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: December 29, 2004

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Mueller", written over a horizontal line.

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DPM:mfe